

WITHOUT CENTRAL AGENCY NATIONS ACT INDIVIDUALLY

Present Attitude of Former Allies Evidence of Lack of Faith in Any International Concert With United States.

BY DAVID LAWRENCE.
(Special Correspondent of The News Scimitar.)

WASHINGTON, April 3.—International nervousness is spreading. France's occupation of German territory, against the judgment of the United States, Great Britain and other allied powers, is but one system. Throughout the world, as it becomes apparent that there is no central, cohesive, effective instrumentality to enforce the peace treaty, each nation is beginning to look out for her own interests.

No Stuck in German Pleas.

Marshal Poch and the French generals, putting no stock in German pleas, have influenced Premier Millerand, the French foreign minister, to take no chances on the allied council of diplomats who were trying to dissuade France, but to go ahead and take German territory first and tell about it afterward.

This summary of the world situation, as gathered in official quarters here, involves no accusations against other governments or nations of improper motive. France's action in occupying German cities is deplored, but, nevertheless, thoroughly understood.

President Wilson sees his charges of militarism against the party now in control of France as vindicated by events. But, while the military have unquestionably affected the views of the French foreign office, there is a disposition here to regard the advice and action of the French military as a natural and logical outgrowth of the policy of abandonment of France which has been gradually adopted involuntarily by the powers associated with her in the war.

The British people are sick of war and Prime Minister Lloyd George could promise no military support to the French move. Moreover, large elements of Great Britain's population, notably the Labor party, believe the German socialists are right in their cry that the treaty is too harsh for the economic good of the world.

Situation in America.

In America, from whom the French expected so much, there is a constantly diminishing interest in the fate of France, as evidenced by the indifference of the senate toward the Franco-American-British defensive agreement which President Wilson submitted to the senate nine months ago and which has not even been reported from the senate foreign relations committee. Feeling that she cannot rely on physical help from the United States, France is taking matters in her own hand to prevent trouble on her own frontiers.

But, while there is a good deal of sympathy with the plight of France, there is, nevertheless, a feeling that France is not acting wisely for her own best interest, and that, by her action in occupying German cities, she will keep alive the germ of war and unrest in Central Europe, the rehabilitation of which has been so earnestly sought to stabilize European and world finance.

But the French military are nervous. Promises and advice from America seem to mean nothing, with a Germany at the front gate, and the French viewpoint is that, regardless of allied discussions and pledges, France must prepare to enforce the treaty herself.

The foregoing line of reasoning is not altogether peculiar to France. Others in the allied family, notably England and Italy, and now Japan in the Far East are looking out for their own interests.

There is no central compelling force to say any nation nay.

Outlook Without the League.

The league of nations was designed by President Wilson to meet exactly the situation that has arisen. It was to negative any territorial pretensions or arbitrary interpretation of the peace treaty. Article 10 was a pledge to preserve territorial integrity.

Had the United States and the council of the league been functioning, the question would have required a unanimous vote before France could have acted in occupying German territory. Japan would have been prevented from entering Vladivostok without consulting the allies and getting their consent. Italy would have been held before the league of nations and required to expel D'Annunzio from Fiume under penalty of economic boycott.

But none of the outbreaks on the part of the allies themselves, either in Central Europe, the Near East or Far East, might have occurred if each of the associated powers had had more respect for the league of nations. Their present attitude of their lack of faith in any international concert which lacks the physical and moral balance of the United States and France.

So far as its effect upon our own government, France's advance into German territory is deeply regretted. It serves to cool such enthusiasm as the executive branch of the government here had in supporting the tripartite agreement with France and England, whereby the United States and England would come to the assistance of France in the event of an unprovoked attack by Germany on France.

Republicans and Democrats look askance at the action of France, and wonder what America's obligation might have been if the tripartite agreement were in effect at present, when the French advance into German territory is blamed upon German insincerity in the Ruhr valley.

France's action probably seals the fate of the special Franco-American treaty, and it is feared means a return throughout Europe of the land-grabbing-get-what-you-can policy which President Wilson has predicted would eventually mean chaos and more bloodshed in the world.

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PARKIN, ARK., HOLDS WARM CITY ELECTION

PARKIN, Ark., April 3. (Sp.)—In one of the hottest municipal contests ever held in a small town, the progressive ticket, headed by E. C. Parks, defeated the opposition in a close race. Parks was elected mayor by 37 votes over J. W. Muller and J. F. Lee, who received 33 and 35 votes, respectively. J. F. Proctor, progressive candidate, defeated C. G. Walquist, Proctor getting 33 votes and Walquist 29.

The aldermen elected were Fred Kelly, H. Cadden, Dr. P. Webb, M. S. Hall and D. P. Scott.

FRUIT DAMAGED.

JONESBORO, Ark., April 3. (Sp.)—The cold snap in this section has greatly damaged the fruit and berry crop. The late crop of berries seems minor. The apple crop will be better than the peach crop, farmers say.

Cuticura Talcum is Fragrant and Very Healthful

Sample free of Cuticura Laboratories, Dept. 7, Malden, Mass. 25c everywhere.

News of Rivers

River Bulletin.

Memphis, Tenn., April 3, 7 p.m.

Stage	Hgt. Chs. Fall	Rain.
Pittsburgh	36 11.6 +0.5	.00
Parkersburg	36 11.6 +0.5	.00
Cincinnati	36 11.6 +0.5	.00
Louisville	36 11.6 +0.5	.00
Evansville	36 11.6 +0.5	.00
Shawneetown	36 11.6 +0.5	.00
Nashville	36 11.6 +0.5	.00
Chattanooga	36 11.6 +0.5	.00
Johnsonville	36 11.6 +0.5	.00
Paducah	36 11.6 +0.5	.00
Davenport	36 11.6 +0.5	.00
Kansas City	36 11.6 +0.5	.00
Chester	36 11.6 +0.5	.00
Cap Girardeau	36 11.6 +0.5	.00
New Madrid	36 11.6 +0.5	.00
MEMPHIS	36 11.6 +0.5	.00
Helena	36 11.6 +0.5	.00
Fort Smith	36 11.6 +0.5	.00
Little Rock	36 11.6 +0.5	.00
Shreveport	36 11.6 +0.5	.00
New Orleans	36 11.6 +0.5	.00

*Rise. —Fall.

The river will remain nearly stationary for 24 to 48 hours and then fall slowly. At Memphis a slow fall will continue.

BAPTIST REVIVAL INTEREST GROWS

Interest and attendance is increasing daily in the revival at Central Baptist church, where Rev. T. S. Potts, of San Antonio, Tex., is assisting the pastor, Rev. Ben Cox. Three services are being held daily at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and at 8 p.m. The Central Male quartet is assisting with the music.

Dr. Potts took as his text Wednesday night "And He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth the sheep from the goats." Dr. Potts said that there are just two classes of people in the world—saved people and lost people.

"There is a difference in their natures, in their lives, in their deaths and in their destinies." He described very graphically the deathbed scenes of Christians he had seen die and the deaths of lost souls, and at the close of his talk he said: "God is going to have a final separation. It will not be a separation according to church books nor according to social calendars."

MILLION-DOLLAR FIRE AT AVIATION FIELD

DALLAS, Tex., April 3.—Several airplanes, large supplies of lumber, the engine house building and other structures at the army aviation repair depot, north of Dallas, were destroyed by fire early this morning. The loss was estimated by army officers at \$1,000,000.

Thirty-six airplanes, valued at approximately \$200,000 were destroyed. The planes were packed and were to be shipped to various flying fields.

The fire was discovered shortly before daybreak by a sentry. The blaze, which started beneath the unloading platform, had made a good headway by the time the alarm was given.

The commanding officer at the field was unable to say how the fire originated.

ARREST TENNESSEANS AND STILL AT FLORENCE

FLORENCE, Ala., April 3. (Sp.)—A 60-gallon copper still, 2,000 gallons of beer, five gallons of whiskey and two men have been captured by W. R. Romaine, prohibition enforcement officer, and Sheriff Mitchell and Deputies Freeman and Mitchell in the northern part of this county. The men are Will and Henry Robinson, Tennesseans, who live just over the line, but put their still in Alabama. The men gave bond in the sum of \$1,100 for their appearance in federal court. A third man made his escape by running as soon as he saw the officers.

FUNERAL SHIP ARRIVES.

NEW YORK, April 3.—The transport Nanamont, first American funeral ship from Europe, arrived here today with the bodies of 37 soldiers who died in base hospitals in England during the war. Relatives and friends of the dead assembled at the dock to receive the flag-draped coffins. It was planned to ship all of the bodies to their final resting places during the day.

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ASK WAR SECRETARY TO VISIT NATCHEZ

NATCHEZ, Miss., April 3. (Sp.)—An invitation has been extended by Natchez to Secretary of War Baker and Adjutant-General Hines, who are now inspecting inland waterways in the South, to visit Natchez. The officials are to be in New Orleans shortly and as they are giving attention to the Mississippi river, they probably will stop here en route to St. Louis, where they will attend the waterways convention on April 15.

QUICK ELECTION IS HELD AT JONESBORO

JONESBORO, Ark., April 3. (Sp.)—The city election held here Wednesday was one of the quietest on record. Only 228 votes were cast. Eugene Sloan was re-elected city attorney, defeating Frank Batta by a majority of 73 votes. The following aldermen were elected: First ward, Jay John; Second ward, R. E. Robertson; Third ward, H. A. Elder; Fourth ward, T. M. Hoover; Fifth ward, W. D. Cobb.

TUNICA TO INSTALL SEWERAGE SYSTEM

TUNICA, Miss., April 3. (Sp.)—The mayor and board of aldermen of Tunica have received from Engineer A. L. Dabney, of Memphis, Tenn., the plans and specifications for the construction of a system of sewerage for the town, and same has been filed with the town clerk. The estimated cost for the system is \$40,000, bonds in this amount having been sold at a former date. Advertisements for the construction of the system and for the material to be purchased by the town have been ordered and the awarding of contract will take place on the first Tuesday in May.

MERIDIAN COTTON MILLS ARE SOLD

MERIDIAN, Miss., April 3. (Sp.)—The ownership of the Lauderdale cotton mill has changed hands today through the purchase of the controlling stock by Fred J. Hughes, of the Sumter Lumber company, of Electric Mills, J. W. Sanders will remain as superintendent. The transfer is said to have involved a large sum of money.

COAL MEN SEEK TO RESTRAIN RAILROADS

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., April 3.—Coal operators of the Southern Appalachian region will meet here today to discuss the car shortage and the virtual seizure of coal by use of preferential car supply by the railroads and it is probable that the operators will take steps to adopt some measures which will relieve a situation they say is intolerable.

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